

Remarks

A. Pending Claims

Claims 156-157, 495-502, 510, 512-514, 516-517, 519-521, 523-526, 528, 531-546, 548-550, 552-553, 555-557, 559-562, and 564 have been rejected. Claims 518, 527, 529-530, 554, 563, and 565-566 have been objected to. Claims 567-572 have been allowed. Claims 156-157, 495-510, 512-514, 516-521, 523-546, 548-550, 552-557, and 559-566 have been cancelled. Claims 573-650 are new. Claims 567-650 are pending.

B. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over Duran In View of Bradbury And Halmann Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 156-157, 495-496, and 531-532 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,491,511 to Duran et al. ("Duran") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0007294 to Bradbury et al. ("Bradbury") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,151,856 to Halmann et al. ("Halmann"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

To reject a claim as obvious, the Examiner has the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Warner et al.*, 379 F.2d 1011, 154 USPQ 173, 177-178 (CCPA 1967). To establish a *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974), MPEP § 2143.03.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Duran in view of Bradbury and Halmann does not appear to teach or suggest the combination of features in claims 156-157, 495-496, and 531-532; however, in order to expedite prosecution of the current application the claims have been cancelled.

C. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over Duran In View of D'Urso And Halmann Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 156-157, 495-502, 510, 512-514, 516-517, 519-521, 523-526, 528, 531-546, 548-550, 552-553, 555-557, 559-562, and 564 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Duran in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,741,215 to D'Urso ("D'Urso") and further in view of Halmann. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Duran in view of D'Urso and Halmann does not appear to teach or suggest the combination of features in claims 156-157, 495-502, 510, 512-514, 516-517, 519-521, 523-526, 528, 531-546, 548-550, 552-553, 555-557, 559-562, and 564; however, in order to expedite prosecution of the current application the claims have been cancelled.

D. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 518, 527, 529-530, 554, 563, and 565-566 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Office Action states that claims 518, 527, 529-530, 554, 563, and 565-566 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

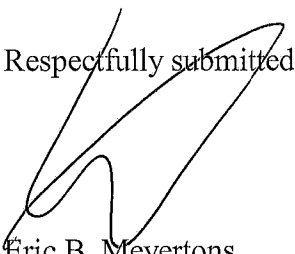
Claims 567-572 are allowed. New claims 573-650 are dependent upon previously allowed claims 567-572.

E. Conclusion

Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests a three-month extension of time. If any further extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. A fee authorization form has been submitted to cover fees associated with a three-month extension of time, as well as fees associated with submission of additional claims. If any further fees are required, or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge, or credit, those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5838-00205/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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